Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented)   A method to be executed as part of a process for creating an executable configuration program that comprises multiple steps that are successively executed and wherein associated with each of the steps are user-selectable options, the method comprising:

generating a user interface including at least (i) a logic flow area for a user to define a command structure for the configuration program including at least one step, (ii) a refinement area for the user to specify a configuration detail regarding a step arranged in the logic flow area, and (iii) a rule palette for the user to create a rule, wherein the rule palette provides multiple conditional operators and entry fields;

creating and storing in a repository the rule that during execution of the configuration program determines which of the user-selectable options for the step are displayed when a specified user-selectable option of a previous step is selected, wherein the step and the previous step are arranged in the logic flow area and the user specifies the rule in the refinement area;

binding the rule in the repository to the specified user-selectable option so that during execution of the configuration program the rule is executed when the specified user-selectable option is selected;

creating and storing in the repository a textual explanation of the step that describes available user-selectable options for the step;

and binding the textual explanation in the repository to the step so that during execution of the configuration program the textual explanation of the step is displayed.

2. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1 wherein the binding of the rule to the specified user-selectable option is performed by virtue of a designer selecting a user-selectable option for which to create the rule.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1 wherein creating the textual explanation comprises translating the textual explanation into at least one different language.

5. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1 further comprising evaluating the stability of a configured software application by executing the software application using a simulated user-selectable option.

6. (Previously Presented)   A system comprising:

a computer network;

a service delivery device coupled to the network, the service delivery device including a processor and memory storing instructions that, in response to receiving a first type of request for access to a service, cause the processor to:

create an executable configuration program that comprises multiple steps that are successively executed and wherein associated with each of the steps are user-selectable options;

generate a user interface including at least (i) a logic flow area for a user to define a command structure for the configuration program including at least one step, (ii) a refinement area for the user to specify a configuration detail regarding a step arranged in the logic flow area, and (iii) a rule palette for the user to create a rule, wherein the rule palette provides multiple conditional operators and entry fields;

create and store in a repository the rule that during execution of the configuration program determines which of the user-selectable options for a step are displayed when a specified user-selectable option of a previous step is selected, wherein the step and the previous step are arranged in the logic flow area and the user specifies the rule in the refinement area;

bind the rule in the repository to the specified user-selectable option so that during execution of the configuration program the rule is executed when the specified user-selectable option is selected;

create and store in the repository a textual explanation of the step that describes available user-selectable options for the step; and

bind the textual explanation in the repository to the step so that during execution of the configuration program the textual explanation of the step is displayed.

7. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 6 wherein the memory stores instructions that, in response to receiving the first type of request, cause the processor to bind the rule to the specified user-selectable option by providing an ability to select a user-selectable option for which to create the rule.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 6 wherein the memory stores instructions that, in response to receiving the first type of request, cause the processor to translate the textual explanation into at least one different language.

10. (Previously Presented)   The system of claim 6 wherein the memory stores instructions that, in response to receiving the first type of request, cause the processor to evaluate the stability of a configured software application by executing the software application using a simulated user-selectable option.

11. (Previously Presented)   A computer-readable storage device comprising instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to:

create an executable configuration program that comprises multiple steps that are successively executed and wherein associated with each of the steps are user-selectable options;

generate a user interface including at least (i) a logic flow area for a user to define a command structure for the configuration program including at least one step, (ii) a refinement area for the user to specify a configuration detail regarding a step arranged in the logic flow area, and (iii) a rule palette for the user to create a rule, wherein the rule palette provides multiple conditional operators and entry fields;

create and store in a repository the rule that during execution of the configuration program determines which of the user-selectable options for a step are displayed when a specified user-selectable option of a previous step is selected, wherein the step and the previous step are arranged in the logic flow area and the user specifies the rule in the refinement area;

bind the rule in the repository to the specified user-selectable option so that during execution of the configuration program the rule is executed when the specified user-selectable option is selected;

create and store in the repository a textual explanation of the step that describes available user-selectable options for the step;

and bind the textual explanation in the repository to the step so that during execution of the configuration program the textual explanation of the step is displayed.

12. (Previously Presented)   The storage device of claim 11 including instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to bind the rule to the specified user-

selectable option by providing an ability to select a user-selectable option for which to create the rule.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented)   The storage device of claim 11 including instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to translate the textual explanation into at least one different language.

15. (Currently Amended)   The storage device of claim [[13]]11 including instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to evaluate the stability of a configured software application by executing the software application using a simulated user-selectable option.